

## **REMARKS**

In the Official Action dated June 10, 2004, the Examiner requested the Cross Reference to Related Applications in the first paragraph in the specification, Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over McClure et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,696,464). Claims 1-9 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-5, 15 and 51-53 of U.S. Patent No. 6,696,464. Claims 1-9 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1, 14-17, 19-24 of copending Application No. 10/649,236. Claims 1-9 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 10/649,255 in view of McClure (6,696,464). Claims 1-9 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 10/649,265 in view of McClure (6,696,464). Claims 1-9 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 10/649,216 in view of McClure (6,696,464).

This response addresses each of the Examiner's objections and rejections. Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of all pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to include a Cross Reference to Related Applications, and Claims 10-15 have been cancelled without prejudice for being drawn to a non-elected subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to file continuing applications drawn to the deleted subject matter. No new matter has been added and no narrowing amendments have been made. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over McClure et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,696,464). Applicants have submitted a declaration executed by Kim F. McClure, who is a named inventor of the claimed

invention. Dr. McClure testifies that two closest structural compounds between the present application and the '464 patent are 6-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-3-isopropyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine (Example 12) in the '464 patent and 3-tert-Butyl-6-[4-(2,4-difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine (Example 4) in the presently claimed invention.

The McClure declaration further provides comparative data showing that the TNF alpha IC<sub>50</sub> value of 76 nM for 3-tert-Butyl-6-[4-(2,4-difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine is surprisingly and unexpectedly better than the human whole blood TNF alpha IC<sub>50</sub> value of 685 nM for 6-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-3-isopropyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine.

Furthermore, McClure et al. do not motivate one skilled in the art to pick and choose from the substituents disclosed in the '464 patent to derive any of the subgeneric species or specific compounds of the presently claimed invention.

In addition, none of the specific compounds of the presently claimed invention is disclosed in McClure et al. In fact, the provisos of the presently claimed invention exclude the specific compounds disclosed in McClure et al.

Accordingly, Claims 1-9 are patentable over McClure et al. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1, 5, 15 49, and 50 of U.S. Patent No. 6,696,464. In response, Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer in due course in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) signed by a registered attorney of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-9 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1, 14-17, 19-24 of copending Application No. 10/649236. In response, Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer in due course in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) signed by a registered attorney of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

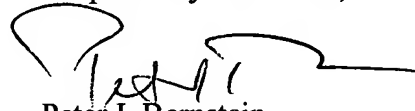
Claims 1-9 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 10/649255 in view of McClure (6,696,464). In response, Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer in due course in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) signed by a registered attorney of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-9 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 10/649265 in view of McClure (6,696,464). In response, Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer in due course in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) signed by a registered attorney of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-9 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 10/649216 in view of McClure (6,696,464). In response, Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer in due course in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) signed by a registered attorney of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Thus, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter I. Bernstein  
Registration No. 43,497

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser  
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 742-4343

Enclosure: Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132

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